Frontlines

Lavender Film Festival Celebrates Its 6th Annual

The Pikes Peak Lavender Film Festival, co-produced by the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center, presents a rare opportunity for Colorado Springs audiences to see international films with gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered characters during the weekend of Sept. 16–18 at the Fine Arts Center.

Over the six-year life of the festival, the films have become better and more inclusive with ensemble casts, complex characters, fascinating stories and indeed, potentially of interest to everyone, regardless of sexuality. Spending the weekend at the festival takes you to many countries, gives you insights into the humor and perspectives of other cultures without having to drive far.

Festival programmers chose to open with a Canadian short film and Spanish feature this year to celebrate Canada's and Spain's enlightened decision to legalize gay and lesbian marriage. So, on opening night, the festival goes to Barcelona, Spain, and the year is 1913. The Spanish feature film *Unconscious*, follows a catered reception that brings a diverse community together in a lively celebration of LGBT people. Replete with costumes of the period, *Unconscious* is a funny Spanish farce whose complex characters flounder in the nascent age of psychoanalysis. A feminist woman and her brother-in-law, search for her lost husband and discover an underworld of desires and perversions among the proper well dressed, repressed of intellectual society. Director Joaquin Oristrell's energetic farce keeps a steady pace, supported by an excellent poker-faced cast, even through the scripts most hilarious twists.

The films of the Pikes Peak Lavender Film Festival have changed considerably over the six-year life of the festival. Lesbians and gays have become complex characters whose relationships find a greater context in society and emerge as whole people. This relatively young genre now creates sophisticated films unique in the world of entertainment. Saturday's (Sept. 17) first two features; *Unveiled* and *Loggerheads* especially illustrate these changes in LGBT films. *Unveiled*, screening at noon Saturday, tells the story of a lesbian who flees for her life from Iran to Germany, where she can not gain asylum without changing her identity to that of a man. *Unveiled* is a political film that offers a compelling love story and indeed, insight into the plight of lesbians in third-world religiously strict countries.

Loggerheads, screening at 2:45 Saturday, tells a story of similar discrimination in our own Christian South. A young man, who later contracts AIDS, leaves his adoptive family at sixteen because of their refusal to accept his homosexuality. A mature and necessary drama, *Loggerheads* stunningly depicts the lives of conservative characters who, after society pushes them in directions that alienate them from each other, are ultimately driven by their hearts to make things right, no matter how difficult. Filmed along the beautiful North Carolina coast where the loggerhead turtles spawn, the story brings together an adoptive mother, a birth mother and their lost son, in an all-star cast of Tess Harper, Michael Learned and Kip Pardue.

The festival includes with two timely documentaries on Sunday at noon preceded by a continental breakfast at the Fine Arts Center. *Gay Republicans* recreates the drama of the agonizing decision of the Log Cabin Republicans not to support their party's nominee because of his unenlightened position on gay and lesbian marriage. *Gay Sex in the '70s* demonstrates that the '70s were not only a time of sexual freedom, drugs and the emergence of AIDS, but a time of creating community and laying the foundation of a political movement that never existed before with its biggest battles ahead.

Fine Arts Center
COLORADO SPRINGS

To view the whole expanse of the political movements of the twentieth century affecting women, *Mrs. Stevens Hears the Mermaids Singing* (screening Sun., Sept. 18, 3 p.m.), based on the work of May Sarton, recreates the fascinating life of a woman at the forefront of her times. Mrs. Stevens's life mirrors the struggles of women to gain suffrage, independence during World II, sexual liberation, stand against McCarthyism of the fifties and changes of consciousness of the women's liberation movement that link her with a new generation.

The great line-up of films of the 6th Annual Pikes Peak Lavender Film Festival concludes with a wonderful French farce, *Cote d'Azur* (screening Sun., Sept. 18, 8 p.m.) that will keep you laughing from frame to frame. From the moment a French family arrives on vacation on the Riviera, taboos are broken and the limits of love are tested. In the midst of our national debate over what constitutes a family and who gets to decide, the directors of *Cote d'Azur* prove that our families are ours to make.

Come to the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center the weekend of Sept. 16-18 to see these wonderful films in its newly refurbished theater. Participating in the Pikes Peak Lavender Film Festival is a truly unique and gratifying experience. For more information about the entire festival go to www.pplff.org or call 719-38-MOVIE for a brochure.

–Alma Cremonesi

FILM

Sep1: Senior Connection: Senior Lunch and a Movie
Sep6: Film ohne Titel, (Film without A Title)
Sep12: Senior Connection: Monday Movie
Sep13: Hallo Fraulein
Sep14: Teen Movie: *Sahara*
Sep16: Pikes Peak Lavender Film Festival
Sep16: Senior Connection: Senior Lunch and a Movie
Sep17: Life, Meaning and Videotape
Sep19: Life, Meaning and Videotape
Sep20: Schwarzwaldmadel, (Black Forest Girl)
Sep21: Senior Connection: Senior Lunch and a Movie
Sep24: Manga and Anime Club
Sep26: Life, Meaning and Videotape
Sep27: Dr. Holl
Sep28: Senior Connection: Senior Lunch and a Movie
Oct15: Symphonic Night at the Movies: From Gershwin to Hitchcock
Oct20: Reel Art Film Series: Dracula
Nov10: An Evening with John Waters: Film, lecture and reception
Nov18: CG Jung Society Lecture and Film

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The PPLFF is co-produced by the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center

SEPT. 16, 17 & 18, 2005
COLORADO SPRINGS FINE ARTS CENTER
30 West Dale Street • Colorado Springs
(719) 38-MOVIE www.pplff.org

Fine Arts Center
COLORADO SPRINGS

CALENDAR – SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2005

For the most current listing of events go to www.weirdsisters.org. (And tell WSW about upcoming events on the web or ema
madwoman@weirdsisters.org or call 970-416-1251, 303-895-7408 or toll free 1-866-973-9378)

COLORADO HIGHLIGHTS

9/8 DEARLY BELOVED in a concert in an all-female line up. Walnut Room, 3131 Walnut St. Denver, 9pm. Wendy De Rosa, Liza Smith, spoken word artist Katie Wirsing, DJ Yer Momm, and VJ Pink Unicorn.www.thedearly-beloved.com

9/8 WOMEN ONLY SENSUALITY NIGHT WITH TRACY BARTLETT In a safe and inclusive atmosphere, women are encouraged to share interactive dialogue and experiences. Pre-registration and a fee are required. To register, call the Rainbow Ranch/ask for Sonya 303-666-4677

9/9 SOPHIE B. HAWKINS in concert. Special Guest: MELISSA IVEY. Rialto Theater, 228 E 4th St, Loveland, 7:30PM $23.

9/10 BOULDER PRIDE'S BLOCK PARTY: A Community Celebration in Downtown Boulder! Free admission, prizes and balloons. Children's area with face painting and clowns. Performers include: Tina Tomasichio (aka Denise Barnes) Mistress of Ceremonies; Nuclia Waste, (she's radioactive); Diane Wasnak of Cirque de Soliel fame; Lynn Patrick, acoustic guitarist; Rhythm of Life, Drumming and dance group. Food, vendors, and special kissing workshop hosted by sex educator TRACY BARTLETTE. 4th Street between Spruce and Pine, Boulder.10 am – 2 pm.

9/10 SUZANNE WESTENHOEFER Mercury Café, 2199 California Ave. Denver; 8pm $20

9/11 SEX TALK WITH TRACY BARTLETT Practice discussing sex openly. GLBTQ Community Center at 2132 14th St in Boulder, 4PM. $10-$20 per person sliding scale. 303-499-5777 or info@BoulderPride.org

9/15 MATT KAILEY Author of "Just Add Hormoness: An Insider's Guide to the Transsexual Experience. Tattered Cover, LoDo, 1628 16th St, Denver, 7:30pm. 303-436-1070.

9/16-9/18 PIKES PEAK LAVENDAR FILM FESTIVAL Colorado Springs. Fine Arts Center, Colo Springs. $10 per movie or half/full festival passes $30/$75. www.pplff.org

9/16-9/18 QUEER REALITIES: The best in new GLBTQ Documentaries. Highlights: GAY SEX IN THE 70s, ONE WEDDING AND A REVOLUION, SAME SEX AMERICA , FAG HAGS. Dairy Center for the Arts, 26th & Walnut, Boulder. Presented by Bent Lens Cinema. www.bentlens.org

9/17 WEIRD SISTERS WEST ANNIVERSARY PARTY. Fort Collins. Noon - 5pm. Callfor location: 970-416-1251. Editor@weirdsisters.org

9/17 GIRL PLAY film starring Robin Greenspan and Lacie Harmon (see interview page 6) and accompanying short "Getting To Know You," WEIRD SISTERS WEST sponsorship night at the Pikes Peak Lavender Film Festival. Fine Arts Center, Colorado Springs, 5:15 pm. $10. www.pplff.org

9/17 QUEER BRUNCH. Drop in dining for all. Castillon's, 320 S. Link Lane, Fort Collins.

9/17 THE UNTOLD STORY OF THE WITCHES OF OZ. A musical. Reception 6pm. Show 8pm. Buell Theatre, Denver Center for the Performing Arts. Benefits the CSU GLBT Student Services office. 970-491-4342. $125.

9/18 MEMORIAL MOTORCYCLE RIDE, benefits Lesbian Cancer Support Services. Ride registration 9 am, Denver Detour, Colfax. Continental breakfast provided. Minimum donation for ride: $25. Ride ~10am. Ends in Pine, CO. with a BBQ and fun prizes.

9/18 LCC FAMILIES GROUP Picnic and Play at City Park Fort Collins. Potluck. 11:30am-2:00pm. FamiliesGroup@lambdacenter.org

9/21 DINNER O-U-T. Older GLBT Group of Northern Colorado. Inca Mexican food, 2413 S College Ave, Fort Collins. 5:30pm. Newcomers welcome. 970-224-6029 or email kstieber@fcgov.com.

9/22-9/24 OUT & EQUAL WORKPLACE SUMMIT 15th Annual Summit. Premier GLBT event for learning, networking, and knowledge sharing about workplace issues. Adam's Mark Hotel, Denver.

9/24 DENVER FLAMINGOS. Social dining club for single lesbians 50 & older. denverflamingos@earthlink.net.

9/25 DENVER MUSEUM OF NATURE & SCIENCE. Bring YOUR family out for this Free Day.

9/30 JAM FOR JUSTICE. Jamfest to RESIST Racism/CREATE Peace. Millennium Harvest House, Boulder, 6-11pm. Cultural Performances, Dancing, Social Justice Organizing. Sponsored by Safehouse Progressive Alliance for Nonviolence. Tickets: $25 / Students & Seniors: $15. Kids Under 5: Free. Door: $35. 303-449-8623.

10/1 DENVER ZOO. Bring YOUR family out for this F

10/1 KGNU CUBAN MUSIC NIGHT Mercury Café, 2 California. 50% of proceeds benefit KGNU's purc AM 1390, Denver. 9pm $12/$15.

10/1 "MASQUEERADE" Lambda Community Cent Anniversary Party, Walnut St. Gallery, Fort Collin 9pm. Dance Party to follow at Club Static.

10/14 SLEATER-KINNEY in concert. The Gothic, 3 Broadway, Englewood. 303-788-0984

10/15 GAY & GRAY IN THE WEST CONFERENCE. 1- forum addresses issues of interest to aging LGBT Keynote speaker, Kathleen Saadat. Denver Merc Mart. $75. www.gayandgrayinthewest.org 303-38

10/15 VOX FEMINISTA. Multi-Media, Multi-Passion Performance Tribe of Women. Fall Show: "WHITE ASLEEP IN THE AMERICAN DREAM." Avogadro's 605 South Mason Street, Fort Collins voxfeminist

10/19 DINNER O-U-T Older GLBT Group of North Colorado. Star of India 4600 S Mason St, Fort Co 5:30pm. Newcomers welcome. 970-224-6029 or kstieber@fcgov.com.

10/20 GO GIRLS MUSIC FEST. Lynn Patrick, Liz Barnez, Celeste Krenz, Rebecca Folsom and Melanie Susuras Band. Trilogy Wine Bar. 2017 13th St. Boulder. Benefit concert for the Lynne Cohen Foundation for Ovarian Cancer Research. trilogywinebar.com

10/21 WOMEN'S SPIRAL DANCE. Dances for Universal Peace. Foothills UU Church. Fort Collins.

10/21 & 10/22 VOX FEMINISTA, "WHITE NOISE: ASLEEP IN THE AMERICAN DREAM." The Dairy Center for the Arts 2590 Walnut St. Boulder. voxfeminista.org

10/22 WOMEN ROCK THE RIALTO. Liz Barnez, Celeste Krenz, Rebecca Folsom, Mary Huckins. Rialto Theater, 228 E. 4th St. Loveland, 7pm. Benefit concert for the Women's Resource Center in Fort Collins and Loveland. $25/$50 970-962-2120. www.womens-resorce.org.

10/22 DAR WILLIAMS and Band with special guest, GIRLYMAN. Boulder Theater. 8pm. $27.50/$24.50 general admission 303-786-7030 www.boulderttheather.com

10/22 WISHING CHAIR with the Denver Women's Chorus. 3&8pm www.denverwomenschorus.org

Girl Play screens at 5:15pm, Sat, Sept 17, at The Pikes Peak Lavender Film Festival – September 16-18, Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center -- sponsored by Weird Sisters West. Truly an internationally flavored affair, the festival offers a rich fare of sophisticated, hilarious, thoughtful and provocative shorts, feature films and documentaries. Other selections include UNCONCIOUS, a social satire set in Barcelona, Spain, during the early Freudian age (opening night); UNVEILED (Sat. noon), a political drama about an Iranian lesbian who flees to Germany and tries to protect herself by assuming the identity of a man; LOGGERHEADS (2:45 Sat.), a beautiful and poignant film about discrimination set in our own Christian South; MRS STEVENS HEARS THE MERMAIDS SINGING (Sun., 3pm), based on the work of May Sarton; and COTE D'AZUR a French farce (Sun., 8pm). The acclaimed documentary GAY REPUBLICANS also airs on Sun. For more information about the entire festival www.pplff.org or 719-38-MOVIE.

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Gay and Lesbian Films With an International Flair
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Spotlight on

Pikes Peak Lavender Film Festival

Just a decade ago, the idea that Colorado Springs would inaugurate and sustain the Pikes Peak Lavender Film Festival, one of the best lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender film festivals in the country, seemed unimaginable.

Each year, this little festival raises the bar, bringing the best films of the genre right here to ground zero. It's a festive and art-filled weekend, complete with opening- and closing-night parties, a gala opening reception and two days of exceptional films.

This year's selection of films includes, among others:

• *My Summer of Love*, directed by Pawel Pawlikowski. This highly acclaimed British film tells the story of two young girls, played by Natalie Press and Emily Blunt, who, in an intense but fleeting summer friendship, create an impenetrable world of their own over the objections of their families.

• *Mrs. Stevens Hears the Mermaids Singing*, directed by Linda Thornburg, based on May Sarton's loosely autobiographical novel about interviewing Hilary Stevens. An author who shocked the country in the 1920s with her novel about two women in love, Stevens is discovered by a new generation in the 1960s. At 70 years old and as an out lesbian poet, Mrs. Stevens finds fame and recognition as well as a greater degree of understanding.

• *Gay Sex in the '70s*: Joseph Lovett, a producer for ABC's "20/20," interviews participants in the gay cultural revolution in New York City in the 1970s and discovers the movement wasn't just about sex. While AIDS and drugs are important legacies of the period, so are community-building and the founding of an important American political movement. It will be screened with the documentary *Gay Republicans*, which looks at the decisions facing gay Republican men and women in the midst of the growing war over gay marriage.

To those of you always complaining that Colorado Springs never gets any interesting independent or foreign films: Get yourself to this festival. It deserves the community's support.

— Kathryn Eastburn

Pikes Peak Lavender Film Festival
Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center, 30 W. Dale St.
Friday-Sunday, Sept. 16-18
For a full schedule or more information, visit pplff.org.

Local film festivals

Pikes Peak Lavender Film Festival

Fine Arts Center, 30 W. Dale St., 719/38-MOVIE, pplff.org

Opening night gala reception, Sept. 16, 6 p.m.
The Sadness of Johnson Joe Jangles **(short) and** ***Unconscious*** **(*Inconscientes*)**, Sept. 16, 7:30 p.m.
Moustache **(short) and** ***Unveiled*** **(feature)**, Sept. 17, noon
Licking Our Wounds **(short) and** ***Loggerheads*** **(feature)**, Sept. 17, 2:45 p.m.
Getting to Know You **(short) and** ***Girl Play*** **(feature)**, Sept. 17, 5:15 p.m.
Ryan's Life **(short) and** ***Summer Storm*** **(feature)**, Sept. 17, 8 p.m.
Gay Republicans **and** ***Gay Sex in the '70s***, double-feature documentary program, Sept. 18, noon
You Wash My Skin With Sunshine **(short) and** ***Mrs. Stevens Hears the Mermaids Singing*** **(feature)**, Sept. 18, 3 p.m.
Faith-Based Charity **(short) and** ***My Summer of Love*** **(feature)**, Sept. 18, 6 p.m.
Bikini **(short) and** ***Cote d'Azure*** **(feature)**, Sept. 18, 8 p.m.

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